

A Declaration of the Sentence and deposition of Elizabeth, the usurper and pretended Quene of Englande.

SIXTVS the fift, by Gods providence the vniuersal pastor of Christes flocke, to vvhome by perpetual and lawfull succession, apperteyneth the care and gouernemēt of the Catholike Church, seinge the pittifull calamities vvhich hereby hath brought into the renowned cuntries of Englande and Irelande, of olde so famous for vertue, Religion, & Christian obedience; And how at this present, through the impietie and peruerse gouernemēt of *Elizabeth* the pretended Quene, with a fewe her adhearētes, those kingdomes be brought not onely to a disordered and perillous state in them selues, but are become as infected members, contagious and troublesome to the whole body of Christendome; And not hauinge in those parts the ordinary meanes, vvhich by the assistance of Christian Princes he hath in other prouinces, to remedy disorders, and kepe in obedience and ecclesiastical discipline the people, for that *Henry the 8.* late kinge of Englande, did of late yeares, by rebellion and reuolte from the See Apostolike, violently seperate him selfe and his subiects from the comunion and societie of the christian comon welth; And *Elizabeth* the present usurper, doth continue the same, vvith perturbation and perill of the cuntries aboute her, shevinge her selfe obstinate and incorrigible in such sorte, that vvithout her depriuation and depostion there is no hope to reforme those states, nor kepe Christendome in perfect peace & tranquillity: Therefore our Holy Father, desyringe as his duty is, to prouide present & effectual remedy, inspired by God for the vniuersall benefite of his Church, moued by the particuler affection vvhich him selfe and many his predecessors haue had to these natyons, And solicited by the Zealous and importunate instance of sundry the most principall persones of the same, hath dealt earnestly vvith diuers Princes, and specially vvith the mighty and potent *Kinge Catholike of Spaine*, for the reuerence vvhich he beareth to the See Apostolike, for the olde Amity betwene his house and the Croune of England, for the specyall loue which he hath shewed to the Catholikes of those places, for the obteyninge of peace and quietnesse in his cuntries adioyninge, for the augmentinge and increase of the Catholike faith, and finally for the vniuersall benefite of all Europe; that he will employe those forces vvhich almighty God hath giuen him, to the depostion of this woman, and correctio of her complices, so wicked and noysome to the worlde; and to the reformation and pacification of these kingdomes, vvhen so greate good, and so manifold publike commodities, are like to ensue.

AND to notefy to the vvorld the iustice of this acte, and giue full satisfaction to the subiects of those kingdomes and others vvholsoeuer, and finally to manifest Gods iudgements vpon sinne; his Holynes hath thought good, together vvith the declaratory sentence of this vvomans chastisement, to publish also the causes, vvhich haue moued him to procede against her in this sorte. **FIRST** for that she is an Heretike, and Schismaticke, excommunicated by two his Holynes predecessors; obstinate in disobedience to God and the See Apostolike; presuminge to take vpon her, contrary to nature, reason, and all lawes both of God and man, supreme iurisdiction and spirituall auctority ouer mens soules. **SECONDLY** for that she is a Bastard, conceyued and borne by incestuous adultery, and therefore vncapable of the Kingdome, as vvell by the seuerall sentences of *Clement the 7.* and *Paul the 3.* of blessed memory, as by the publike declaration of *Kinge Henry* him selfe. **THIRDLY** for vsurpinge the Croune vvithout right, hauinge the impediments mentioned, and contrary to the auntyent acorde made betwene the See Apostolike and the realme of England, vpon reconciliation of the same after the death of *S. Thomas of Canterbury*, in the time of *Henry the second*, that none might be lawfull kinge or Quene thereof, vvithout the approbation and consent of the supreme Bishopp: vvich aftervvard vvvas renewed by *kinge John*, and confirmed by othe, as a thinge most beneficiall to the kingdome, at request and instance of the lordes and Comons of the same. **AND FURTHER** for that vvith sacrilege and impiety, she continueth violating the solemne Othe made at her coronation, to mainteyne and defende the auntyent priuileges and ecclesiastical libertyes of the lande. **FOR MANY** and greuous iniuries, extorsions, oppressions, and other wronges, done by her, and suffered to be done against the poore and innocent people of both cuntries. **FOR** stirring vp to sedition and rebellion the subiects of other nations aboute her, against their lawfull and naturall princes, to the destruction of infinite soules, ouerthrow and desolation of most goodly citties and cuntries. **FOR** harboringe and protectinge Heretikes, fugitiues, rebelles, and notorious malefactors, vvith greate iniury and preiudice of diuers comon vvealthes; and procuringe for the oppressio of Christendome and disturbance of comon peace, to bringe in our potēt and cruell enemy the *Turke*. **FOR** so longe and barbarous persecution of gods saints, afflictinge, spolyng, and imprisoninge the sacred Bishops, tormentinge, and pittifully murderinge numbers of holy Preists, and other catholike persons. **FOR** the vnnatural and iniust imprisonment, and late cruelty vsed against the most gracious Princessse, *Mary Quene of Scotland*, vvho vnder promise and assurance of protection and succor, came first into Englande. **FOR** abolishinge the trevv Catholike religion; prophaninge holy Sacramēts, Monasteries, Churches, Sacred persons, Memories of saints, and vvhat els so euer might helpe or further to eternal saluacion: And in the Comon welth, disgracinge the auntyent Nobility, erecting base and vnnworthy persons to all the Ciuile and Ecclesiastical Dignities, sellinge of lawes and iustice, And finally exercysinge an absolute Tyrannie, vvith high offence to almighty God, oppressyon of the people, perdition of soules, and ruine of those cuntries.

WHEREFORE, these thinges beinge of such nature & quality, that some of the make her vnable to reigne, others declare her vnnworthy to liue; His Holinesse, in the almighty power of God, and by Apostolical auctority to him committed, doth renewe the sentence of his predecessors *Pius 5.* and *Gregorie the 13.* touching the Excommunication and depostion of the said *Elizabeth*: and further a newe doth Excommunicate, and depriue her of all auctority and Princely dignety, and of all title and pretensyon to the said Croune and Kingdomes of England and Ireland; declaringe her to be illegitimate, and an iniust usurper of the same; And absoluinge the people of those states, and other persons whatsoever, from all Obedience, Othe, and other bande of Subiectyon vnto her, or to any other in her name. And further doth straitely commaunde, vnder the indignation of almighty God, and payne of Excommunication, and the corporal punishment appoynted by the lawes, that none, of whatsoever condition or estate, after notice of these presents, presume to yeilde vnto her, Obedience, fauor, or other succor; But that they and euery of them concur by all meanes possible to her chastisement. To the ende, that she vvich so many wayes hath forsaken God and his Church, beinge now destitute of wordly comforte, and abandoned of all, may acknowledge her offence, and humbly submitt her selfe to the iudgements of the highest.

BE IT THEREFORE notefyed to the inhabitants of the said Cuntries, and to all other persons, that they obserue diligently the premises, withdrawinge all succor publike and priuate, from the party pursued and her adherents, after they shall haue knowlege of this present: And that forthvvith they vnite them selfs to the Catholike army conducted by the most noble and victorious Prince, *Alexander Farnesius, Duke of Parma and Placentia*, in name of his Maiesty, vvith the forces that eche one can procure, to helpe and concurre as ys aforesaid (yf nede shall be) to the depostion and chastisement of the said persons, and restitution of the holy Catholike faith. Signyfenge to those vvich shall doe the contrary or refuse to doe this here comaunded, that they shall not escape condigne punishment.

MOREOVER BE IT KNOWNEN that the intention of his Holinesse, of the *Kinge Catholike*, and the Duke his highnesse in this enterprise, ys not to inuade and conquare these kingdomes; chaunge lawes, preuileges or customes; bereaue of liberty or liuelyhoode any man (other then rebels and obstinate persons) or make mutation in any thinge, except suche, as by comon accorde, betwene his Holinesse, his Catholike maiesty, and the states of the lande, shall be thought necessary, for the restitution and continuance of the Catholike Religion, and punishment of the usurper and her adhearētes. Assuringe all men, that the controuersies vvich may arise by the depriuation of this woman, or vpon other cause, cyther betwene particuler parties, or touching the successyon to the Croune, or betwene the Church and Comon welthe, or in other wise whatsoever, shall be decyded and determined wholly accordinge to iustice and Christian equity vvithout iniury or preiudice to any person. And there shall not onely due care be had, to free from spoyle the Catholikes of these cuntries, vvich haue so longe endured, but mercy also shewed to such penitent persons, as submitt them selues to the Capitane generall of this army. Yea for so much as information ys giuen, that there be many, vvich onely of ignorance or feare be fallen from the fayth, and yet notwithstandinge are taken for heretikes; Neyther ys yt purposed, presently to punish any such persons, but to supporte them vvith clemency, till by conference vvith lerned men and better consideration, they may be informed of the truth, if they doe not shew them selues obstinate.

TO PREVENT also the shedding of Christiane bloode, and spoyle of the cuntry, vvich might ensue by the resistance of some principall offenders. Be it knowne by these presents, that it shall not onely be lawfull for any person publike or priuate (ouer and besides those vvich haue vnderaken the enterprise) to arreste, put in holde, and deliuer vp vnto the Catholike parte, the said usurper, or any of her complices; But also holden for very good seruice and most highly rewarded, accordinge to the quality and condition of the parties so deliuered. And in like maner, all others, vvich here to fore haue assisted, or hereafter shall helpe and concur to the punishment of the offenders, and to the establisshment of Catholike Religion in these prouinces, shall receyue that aduancement of honor and estate vvich their good and faithful seruice to the comon welthe shall require; in vvich, respecte shall be vsed, to preferue the auntyent and honorable famelyes of the lande, in as much as ys possible. And finally by these presents, fre passage ys graunted to such as will resorte to the catholike campe, to bringe vittuals, munition, or other necessaryes; promisinge liberall paymēt for all such things, as shall be receiued from the for seruice of the army. Exhorting vvithall and straitely commaunding, that all men accordinge to their force and ability, be redy and diligent to assiste here in; to the ende no occasion be giuen to violence, or to punish such persons as shall neglect this commaundement.

Our said holy father, of his benignety, and fauor to this enterprise, out of the spirituall treasures of the Church, committed to his custody and dispensation, graunteth most liberally, to all such as assist, concur, or helpe in any wise, to the depostion and punishment of the abouenamed persons, and to the reformation of these two Cuntries, Plenary Indulgence and pardon of all their sinnes, beinge dueby penitent, contrite, and confessed, according to the law of God, and vsual custome of Christian people.